Al-Faran

2868. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have rejected the U.S. proposal regarding monetary rewards to any one giving clue to the Al-Faran hostages may be announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.S. has proposed for setting up of hotline in the valley under the supervision of FBI; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d). Government has maintained close and continuous interaction with the representatives of the countries whose nationals had been abducted in July 1995 in Jammu and Kashmir. Of the six foreign nationals abducted, one had escaped, one had been killed and the whereabouts of 4 others from Germany, UK and USA continue to remain unknown despite best efforts. As part of the efforts to locate these hotages, suggestions have also come up for the announcement of a reward for getting information about them. The State Government is working out the details and modalities for the implementation of the same as a part of the investigation of the related case.

Power Grid Corporation

2869. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has lashed out the Indian Government for interference in the working of the Power Grid Corporation of India, paralysing its Board of Distrctors;

(b) if so, the details therefor, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The World Bank had reviewed recently the POWERGRID's institutional development. In the aide-memoire, the Bank had commented favourably on POWERGRID's performance. However, some comments were made relating to management problems, especially delay in the appointment of a regular Chairman cum Managing Director, Director (Finance) and the need for restructuring the Board of Directors.

Government have initiated action in consultation with the Public Enterprises Selection Board for filling up the post of Chairman cum Managing Director and Director (Finance) expeditiously. The restructuring of the Board will be governed by the guidelines laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises.

LPG Consumers

2870. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of LPG consumers both domestic and commercial in Mysore City;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there is short supply of LPG refills to Mysore City;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any Bottling Plant in Mysore;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not whether the Government propose to establish a Bottling Plant there;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The total number of Domestic LPG consumers enrolled with distributors of PSUs Oil Companies in Mysore City as on 1.10.96 is 78825. No separate estimation of the LPG requirement for commercial consumption is made which is supplied in both packed and bulk.

(b) and (c). The demand of the existing consumers of LPG in the country including the City of Mysore, who are enrolled with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies, is by and large, being met in full. Temporary backlog that may arise are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of Bottling Plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas.

(d) to (g). The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has one LPG bottling plant of 22 TMTPA capacity at Mysore.

Regional Development

2871. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has appointed special committees for the regional development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committees have been formed for the North Eastern and other regions of the country; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). A High Level Experts Committee has been set up for the North-Eastern Region in pursuance of Prime Minister's announcement on New Initiatives for the North-Eastern Region. The Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Small Scale Industries, Agro & Rural Industry will examine all aspects of the problem pertaining to the educated unemployed in the North-Eastern Region and suggest specific steps to promote employment among the educated unemployed.

In addition, a High Level Commission under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, has already been set up to examine the backlog in respect of Basic Minimum Services and the gaps in infrastructure sectors for development of States in the North-Eastern Region.

Master Plan

2872. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "GNA allots land sans master plan approval" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Small Power Projects

2873. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up small power projects in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided financial assistance to the Delhi Government for the development of small power projects during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof year-wise; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

[English]

Heavy Water

2874. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of heavy water plants of the country falls short of the target;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of actual production and installed capacity of each plant; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Heavy Water being a strategic material, it is not in the national interest to disclose the figures of actual production. The plantwise installed capacities are as follows :-

Heavy Water Plant	Installed Annual Capacity (MT)
Nangal	8
Baroda	45
Tuticorin	49
Thal	78
Hazira	80
Talcher	62.5*
Kota	80
Manuguru	185

* Not in operation at present.

Continuous efforts are made to maintain the levels of production in the operational plants which are considered satisfactory.

[Translation]

Remunerative Prices to Farmers

2875. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers can get remunerative prices